

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-3.

Attachments: Two Replacement Sheets - Figs. 1-3
 [Two Annotated Sheets showing changes - Figs. 1-3]

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to clarify the description of Figs. 1 and 2. In addition, page 55 of the specification has been amended to more accurately describe the nozzle 143.

Also, enclosed are Annotated and Replacement Drawings of Figs. 1-3 that include the reference numerals added to page 32. These reference numerals are numerals 71 and 72 in Fig. 2 and numeral 143 in Figs. 1 and 3. No new matter is being added by these amendments and their entry is therefore requested.

In response to the above Office Action, claims 1-15 have been amended to avoid the rejections of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, to avoid improper multiple dependency and to place the claims in more traditional U.S. format. The scope of the claims remains the same.

More specifically, regarding “capable of holding” in claim 1, this has been changed “to that retains.” Support for this can be found on page 52, line 11 of the specification.

“Predetermined inclination” and “predetermined applied thickness” have been clarified by including specific values for the limitations in new dependent claims 27 and 28. Support for these claims can be found on page 56, lines 2 and 3 and page 52, lines 6-8, respectively.

Finally, “desired applied width” has been deleted from claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under §112, second paragraph is therefore requested.

Support for new claims 29 and 30 can be found on page 32, last paragraph.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Watanabe (JP'645) in view of Kozaki et al. (Kozaki). Claims 2 and 3 were rejected over JP'645 in view of Kozaki; further in view of Bode et al (EP'365).

A feature of claim 1 is the step of supplying the liquid-state photosensitive resin to the resin receiving plate from a resin supply device in a linear mode. A first characteristic of the step is that the resin receiving plate and the resin supply device are separate. This is clearly shown in the drawings and described on page 55, line 13 to page 56 of the specification. This causes less convoluted bubbles (page 55, lines 19-20). Moreover, the liquid-state photosensitive resin supplied to the plate flows slowly in the direction of the front-end doctor blade shape of the plate due to gravity (page 55, lines 24-27), which permits a constant rate of application of the liquid -state photosensitive resin to the workpiece.

A second characteristic is that the liquid-state photosensitive resin is supplied in a linear mode. See page 55, lines 3-12 of the specification and new claim 30.

In contrast, JP'645 discloses that the doctor blade is integrated with the bucket 111, and that the opening and closing of plate 113 opens or closes the bottom of the bucket 111 (paragraph [0026] and Figure 2). As is described on page 10, lines 15-17 of the present application, JP'645 (patent document 7) has the problem of bubbles when the bucket is opened or closed or in the smoothing step by the doctor blade and forms a deficit portion near the resin layer surface. The method of claim 1 avoids such bubbles.

Moreover, JP'645 does not disclose or suggest a linear mode of application of the resin.

A second feature of claim 1 is the step of applying the liquid-state photosensitive resin supplied to the resin receiving plate at an applied thickness by the front-end doctor blade of the resin receiving plate, while rotating the workpiece and applying the resin to the outer periphery of the workpiece.

Kozaki may refer to a cutter knife, but it does not have the same function as that of the doctor blade of claim 1. Nor does the Examiner refer to anywhere in the reference that the function is described. In fact, not only is the cutter knife not shown, but it is described in paragraph [0067] as follows. “. . . both ends of PET film on the surface of the sleeve like photosensitive resin sheet were cut each 5 cm long . . . with a cutter knife,” The claimed front-end doctor blade of the resin receiving plate is not a “cutter knife,” but a doctor blade for applying the resin to the rotating workpiece.

Accordingly, it is not seen how the invention of claim 1 or claims 4 and 5 dependent therefrom can be considered obvious over JP'645 in view of Kozaki. Its withdrawal as a ground of rejection of the claims under §103(a) is therefore requested. Since claims 2 and 3, as well as claims 6-15 and 27-31 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, it is submitted they are also patentable over the cited reference.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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[Two Annotated Sheets showing changes - Figs. 1-3]

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

FIG. 1

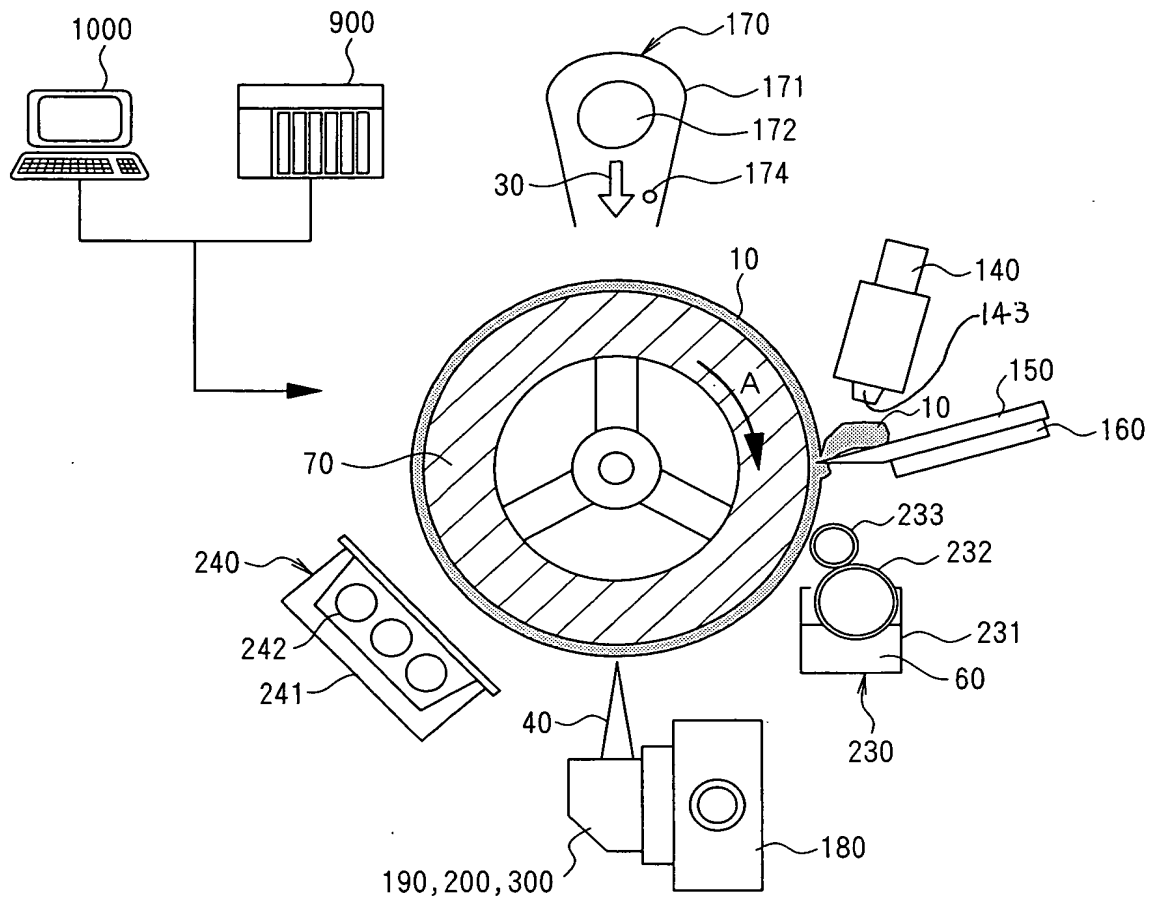


FIG. 2

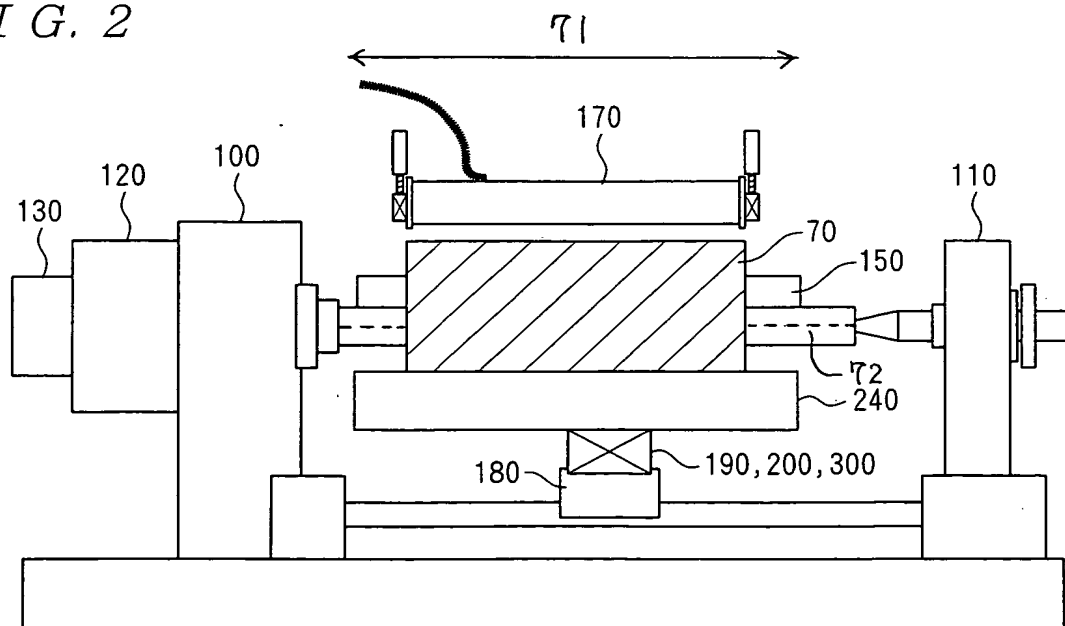


FIG. 3

